

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vollkommer et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,034,470) in view of *Kuznetzoff* (U.S. Patent No. 4,270,823).

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vollkommer et al.* in view of *Miyazaki* (U.S. Patent No. 5,800,232).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant amends claims 8 and 11 by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 8-24 are pending, with claims 8-13 being currently under consideration.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vollkommer et al.* in view of *Kuznetzoff*. To the extent that this rejection might be applied to the claims, as newly-amended, it is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Vollkommer et al.* and *Kuznetzoff*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every feature of independent claim 8, as newly-presented. For instance, it is respectfully submitted that neither *Vollkommer et al.* nor *Kuznetzoff* teaches or suggests the claimed combination as set forth in independent claim 8, as newly-presented, including at least “first and second electrodes in the grooves, each electrode having a width narrower than the grooves, wherein a gap is between each of the electrodes and a respective one of the grooves.”

The Office Action alleges that the flat fluorescent lamp as taught by *Vollkommer et al.* corresponds to the claimed combinations as set forth in independent claim 8 except the use of grooves to accept electrodes. Thus, the Office Action then cites *Kuznetzoff* as allegedly teaching electrodes nested in grooves to remedy the deficiencies of *Vollkommer et al.* However, no portion of *Vollkommer et al.*'s and *Kuznetzoff*'s disclosure appears to discuss an electrode having a width narrower than the grooves where a gap is between the electrode and the grooves, as set forth in Applicant's claimed combination.

M.P.E.P. 2143.03 instructs that "[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." Since, in view of the above, *Vollkommer et al.* and *Kuznetzoff* fail to teach or suggest each and every element set forth in independent claim 8, as newly-amended, it is respectfully submitted that *Vollkommer et al.* in view of *Kuznetzoff* do not render claim 8 unpatentable. Since claims 9-10 depend from claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that *Vollkommer et al.* in view of *Kuznetzoff* also does not render claims 9-10 unpatentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vollkommer et al.* in view of *Miyazaki*. To the extent that this rejection might be applied to the claims, as newly-amended, it is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Vollkommer et al.* and *Miyazaki*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every feature of independent claim 11, as newly-presented. For instance, it is respectfully submitted that neither *Vollkommer et al.* nor *Miyazaki* teaches or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in independent claim 11, as

newly-presented, including at least “first and second electrodes in the grooves, each electrode having a width narrower than the grooves, wherein a gap is between each of the electrodes and a respective one of the grooves.”

The Office Action alleges that the flat fluorescent lamp as taught by *Vollkommer et al.* corresponds to the claimed combinations as set forth in independent claim 11 except the use of grooves to accept electrodes. Thus, the Office Action appears to cite *Miyazaki*'s elements (9) shown in FIG. 1 as allegedly teaching electrodes nested in grooves on substrates to remedy the deficiencies of *Vollkommer et al.* However, no portion of *Vollkommer et al.*'s and *Miyazaki*'s disclosure appears to discuss an electrode having a width narrower than the grooves where a gap is between the electrode and the grooves, as set forth in Applicant's claimed combination.

Since, in view of the above, *Vollkommer et al.* and *Miyazaki* fail to teach or suggest each and every element set forth in independent claim 11, as newly-amended, it is respectfully submitted that *Vollkommer et al.* in view of *Miyazaki* do not render claim 11 unpatentable. Since claims 12-13 depend from claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that *Vollkommer et al.* in view of *Miyazaki* also does not render claims 12-13 unpatentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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